



National Conference on Weights and Measures

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TO: Weights and Measures Officials
Representatives of Business, Industry and Consumer Organizations
Federal Agency Representatives
Parties Interested in Legal Metrology

“Recognition Through Transparency”

I would like to take this opportunity to invite one and all to the NCWM 89th Annual Meeting, July 11-15, 2004, at the Hilton Pittsburgh & Towers, in Pittsburgh, PA.

The theme of this annual meeting is Recognition Through Transparency. Transparency is a term borrowed from the World Trade Organization’s Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement meaning...“all essential information regarding current work, draft work, proposals under consideration as well as the final results should be made easily accessible to at least interested parties throughout all stages of standards development.”

NCWM is a body that does not operate in secrecy. Our work is conducted in a fishbowl. We do indeed want to share the end results of the work we do. We not only want to share but we sincerely want others to become part of the process. Our standards are created as part of a due process system. We can only create fair and equitable standards if we are exposed to the many diverse opinions from the different segments of industry as well as the regulating community.

We are not only working the strategic plan of the Conference but also reviewing the plan to ensure the NCWM and our partners are exploring alternatives to the Conference structure and the process of standards development to produce equitable standards for legal metrology. As development of standards marches on, your continued participation is critical as the NCWM and our stakeholders work towards our goal of uniformity and equity in the marketplace.

The work of the NCWM goes on year-round striving to develop national weights and measures standards that facilitate equity in the marketplace. Within Publication 16 you will find the hard work of many people. Your participation in this Conference will ensure the issues brought before this 89th Annual Meeting and those to come will mold the future of weights and measures here and abroad.

This brochure will serve as your guide to the Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh and I look forward to seeing you there.

Dennis E. Ehrhart, CPM
Chairman, National Conference on Weights and Measures
Assistant Director, Compliance • Arizona Dept. of Weights and Measures